

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-05

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00 /022 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA TASK FORCE:DKORN

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S/S-O:MR TWOHIE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208611

TOSEC 15

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE KUWAIT FROM MANAMA OCT 20

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0671

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : PFOR, MARR, BA

SUBJECT : MIDEASTFOR AGREEMENT ENDED BY BAHRAIN

REF : MANAMA 0664

SUMMARY: BAHRAIN HAS SERVED FORMAL NOTICE OF ENDING OF
MIDEASTFOR AGREEMENT. GOB WILLING TO HONOR AGREEMENT-
PROVIDING FOR ONE YEAR NOTICE, BUT WOULD PREFER DEPARTURE SOONER:
END SUMMARY.

1. AT 1230 HOURS OCT 20 GOB FOMNIN CALLED CHARGE TO
MINISTRY AND FORMALLY ANNOUNCED ENDING OF MIDEASTFOR
STATIONING AGREEMENT. HE NOTED THAT BAHRAIN VALUED ITS
LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. AND STRESSED THAT THIS
WOULD IN NO WAY AFFECT BAHRAIN'S DIPLOMATIC OR OTHER TIES
WITH U.S.

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2. HE REPORTED GOB FELT IT NOT APPROPRIATE TO HAVE US MILITARY FACILITY AT TIME WHEN US INTERVENTION IN MIDDLE EAST IS SHOWN BY PRESIDENT'S SUBMISSION OF LARGE EMERGENCY SECURITY ASSISTANCE BILL TO CONGRESS. HE NOTED THAT BAHRAIN WAS ONLY COUNTRY IN AREA WITH US MILITARY PRESENCE, AND ALTHOUGH GOB HAD TRIED TO PLAY THIS DOWN, IT WAS HIGHLY VISIBLE AND SUBJECT OF COMMENT. MOREOVER, OTHER COUNTRIES IN AREA HAD ALREADY ANNOUNCED SANCTION IN THE FORM OF OIL-CUT-BACKS TO THE US, AND BAHRAIN DID NOT HAVE OIL TO WITHHOLD. HE ALSO REFERRED TO RECENT DEMONSTRATION IN MANAMA AND SAID THAT THIS SORT OF ACTIVITY COULD BE EXPECTED TO GROW UNTIL US-BAHRAIN RELATIONSHIPS WOULD APPEAR IN WORST LIGHT. HE ADDED THAT STEP WAS IMPORTANT FOR SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF BAHRAIN AS PART OF MIDDLE EAST.

3. ALTHOUGH GOB WILL INFORM USG BY LETTER, HE STATED THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT CONSTITUTES THE FORMAL DECISION. HE CONFIRMED BAHRAIN'S INTENTION TO HONOR PARA 14 OF THE AGREEMENT WITH ONE YEAR NOTICE TO DATE FROM OCT 20, 1973. IF , HOWEVER, THE US NAVY CAN LEAVE SOONER, IT WOULD BE BETTER FROM THE STAND-POINT OF GOB. HE ASKED THAT WE CONVEY ANSWER RE TIMING OF DEPARTURE.

4. GOB INTENDS TO MAKE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISION AT 1630 LOCAL (1330 ZULU). AT THE SAME TIME GOB WILL ANNOUNCE DECISION TO FOLLOW RECENT AGREEMENT REACHED IN KUWAIT ON OIL-CUTBACK.

STARRETT
UNQUOTE RUSH

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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